



## **CAMERA BASICS**

### **for National Water Dance 2024**

For your live in-person event, please take into consideration these videotaping tips:

- Use an HD video camera or an iPhone 7 or above
- If working with an Android you will need to convert your footage when you select your clips
- Preferred resolution (frame size) – 1920 x 1080
- If you have a choice of settings choose the best-quality setting
- If your camera gives you a choice of frame rate (timebase) please use 29.97 or 30 or 60i. Do not use 24p.
- We cannot use “shaky” footage. Gimbals can be very helpful here. Tripods also can be used. Placement of the tripod is important. Make sure that the dancers' images fill the frame.
- We prefer .MOV format which is a Quicktime format. If not .MOV use .MP4
- For iPhone, select the most compatible format vs high efficiency.

### **IF YOU ARE USING AN iPhone or Android Phone**

**USE IT HORIZONTALLY (Landscape). DO NOT FILM VERTICALLY (Portrait)**

**We can't use footage taken vertically.**



- No single clip should be longer than 3 minutes.
- Do not zoom in and out of action.
- Make sure you have enough space/GB's on your phone to record what you need!

## FILMING TIPS

**A steady camera is critical to good footage. If you choose to PAN (moving a camera from side to side) move the camera very SLOWLY.** Moving at normal speed is too fast.

- Take close-up shots and wide shots – stay at least 1 minute on the close-up and 1 minute on the wide shot.
- In a wide shot, bodies should take up 2/3's of the frame when possible—if the image is too small, we can't use the footage.
- Finally – Take some shots of the audience and the environment.
- Most of all – HAVE FUN!!

## STILLS

**IT IS VERY USEFUL to have still photography! We strongly encourage you to send us 5 of your best stills.**

- Photograph your key moments
- Be sure to label your files accordingly: Name of choreographer or Organization\_Location\_photo credit.jpg
  - Example: CatellierDanceProjects\_Decatur,GA\_Hal Jacobs Photography.jpg

## EDITING AND SENDING IN YOUR FILES

**Raw Footage ONLY! NO EDIT TRANSITIONS! We cannot use footage that has been edited. Please send in the .mov or .mp4 files**

- Send us up to 3 minutes of your favorite footage in several different files.
  - Recommend limiting to 2 GB total file size for each file.
- The material does not have to be sequential. You can have:
  - One minute from the beginning of the event
  - A series of close-ups from the middle of the event
  - A minute of the finale
- When you make your selection, allow about **5 seconds before and after the chosen clips.** This allows for editing them into the entire film without losing the beginning or ending of good material. **Make sure to identify the selected section with a timestamp.**
- Remember that your video will be woven into a large design, weaving together clips from many different events to make the final film.
- Make sure you export a 1920 x 1080 at 29.97 or 30 frames per second.

**After the April 20th event, you will receive an email “request for files” from National Water Dance’s DropBox. When you open the link in the email, you will have access to drop your video clips and photos directly into a folder. You do not need a Dropbox account in order to share your files. We will send out a reminder email with clear instructions of how to submit and how to label your files:**

- Name of choreographer or Organization\_Location\_photo credit.jpg
  - Example: CatellierDanceProjects\_Decatur,GA\_Hal Jacobs Photography.jpg
  - Example: OrangeGroveDance\_Baltimore, MD.mov

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS you may email Kristin or Dale:  
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